Part One: Reading (Score: 8 pts.)

1- Read the following text carefully, and then answer the questions below in complete sentences. (Score: 4 pts.)

1- It doesn’t take long to turn farmland into desert. American farmers found this out in the 1930s. They planted wheat in large areas of grassland in the south central United States. For a few years there was plenty of rain and lots of wheat. Then the rains stopped, as they often do in this dry region. The wheat dried up and the top soil turned to dust. Before long, it had all blown away in great dust storms. The area became known as the “Dust Bowl”.

2- What happened in the “Dust Bowl” is a perfect example of erosion caused by modern farming methods. (Erosion is the loss of top soil). Top soil blows away more easily when it is no longer protected by grasses or trees. In ten years or less, several feet of good soil can disappear. And once it is gone, there is no way to get it back quickly. It may take from one hundred to a thousand years for new top soil to form.

3- Unfortunately, it seems that farmers have not learned from the example of the Dust Bowl. In the United States alone, five billion tons of top soil are lost every year. Farmers continue to use the same destructive methods. They plant the same crops and use tons of chemical fertilizers.

4- The situation in other parts of the world is even more serious. The total loss of top soil worldwide is 24 billion tons a year. Areas of the earth with a dry climate (about one third of the planet) are hit worst. In these areas, about 12 million hectares of land are lost to agriculture per year because of erosion.

5- In developing countries, this often leads to hunger and death. The recent history of one part of Africa, the Sahel, is a good example. In the 1960s and 1970s much good farmland was taken over for export crops, such as sugar and cotton. Many people moved into the drier interior areas to grow their food. During that period, there was more rain than usual. Food and cattle production increased and so did the population.

6- Before long, there were too many people in these areas. The land began to suffer the effects. It was no longer protected by trees, which had been cut down for firewood. The grass and bushes were gone, eaten by the cattle, sheep, and other animals. Animal manure was used for burning instead of fertilizing the soil.

7- Then came a long period of no rain. The ruined top soil quickly blew away. The Sahara Desert advanced in some areas as much as 100 kilometers. In other areas, the semi-desert land became completely unproductive. Now millions of people have no way to make a living. Many have died of hunger, while others have moved to the already crowded cities.

8- The events in the Sahel were an important lesson for the government officials and farmers around the world. But again, the lesson has been ignored. More and more people are hungry on our planet, but farmland continues to be ruined.
II. Read the following passage and choose the one best answer (A), (B), (C), or (D) to each question. (Score: 4 pts.)

A recent investigation by scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey shows that strange animal behavior might help predict future earthquakes. Investigators found such occurrences in a ten-kilometer radius of the epicenter of a fairly recent quake. Some birds screeched and flew about wildly; dogs yelped and ran around uncontrollably. Scientists believe that animals can perceive these environmental changes as early as several days before the mishap. In 1976 after observing animal behavior, the Chinese were able to predict a devastating quake. Although hundreds or thousands of people were killed, the government was able to evacuate millions of other people and thus keep the death toll at a lower level.

1. What prediction may be made by observing animal behavior?

(A) an impending earthquake
(B) the number of people who will die
(C) The ten-kilometer radius of the epicenter
(D) environmental changes

2. Which of the following is not true?
A) Some animals may be able to sense an approaching earthquake
B) By observing animal behavior, scientists perhaps can predict earthquakes
C) The Chinese have successfully predicted an earthquake and saved many lives
D) All birds and dogs in a ten-kilometer radius of the epicenter went wild before the quake.

3. In this passage, the word “screeched” most nearly means:
   (A) sang
   (B) winged
   (C) pecked
   (D) screamed

4. In this passage, the word “evacuate” most nearly means:
   (A) empty
   (B) exile
   (C) destroy
   (D) terminate

Part Two: Grammar (Score: 6 pts.)

Each sentence below has four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of the sentence are marked (A), (B), (C), or (D). Circle the letter of one underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct:

1. Linguistics, the science of language, have given writing systems to many languages.
   A       B       C       D

2. Gold is a shining and precious metal who is not affected neither by time nor by weather.
   A       B       C

3. Driving, an acquired skill, needs a high level of proficiency and attentive.
   A       B       C       D

4. About ten years ago my boyfriend and I were taking a vacation in Mexico, when we suddenly decide to get married.
   A       B       C

5. Hypoglycemia is a condition in which a rapidly drop in blood sugar most often results from an over secretion of insulin from the pancreas.
   A       B       C       D

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6. The Canadian province of British Columbia is rich of minerals, and because over 50 percent of the land is covered with forests, lumbering is its major industry.

Part Two Writing (Score: 6 pts.)
Write a three-paragraph essay on one of the following topics:

1. In recent years, some animal species have become endangered by several factors. As a student in the faculty of agronomy and veterinary sciences, write about two main causes and two major effects of the problem of endangered animals or animal extinction.

2. More and more farmers and food manufacturers are genetically modifying their crops to reduce susceptibility to disease, improve flavor, and reduce costs. Argue with or against the idea of genetically modifying foods. Support your argument with enough evidence.

Your writing will be assessed for ideas, language, and organization.